REMARKS

The present application was filed on February 2, 2004 with claims 1 through 31. Claims 1 through 31 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1, 23, 27, and 28 are proposed to be amended herein.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 7, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mar (United States Patent Number 6,114,914) and rejected claims 2, 23, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mar in view of Mastrocola et al. (United States Patent Number 6,356,132). The Examiner indicated that claims 3-5, 8-22, 24-26, and 30-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors.

Independent Claims 1, 23, 27 and 28

Independent claims 1 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mar and claims 23 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mar in view of Mastrocola et al. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Mar discloses a clock generation circuit that changes (slews) a clock frequency from an initial frequency to a final clock frequency.

Applicant notes that the Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 3 and 4 require that the modify operation increases/decreases the period of the feedback signal relative to the initial period and the change operation increases/decreases the current frequency divider value. Independent claims 1, 23, 27, and 28 have been amended to require modifying a period of a feedback signal through a plurality of periods from an initial period to a final period, the modify operation utilizing one or more of the plurality of phase outputs, *wherein said initial period is different from said final period.* This is equivalent to the limitation of increases or decreases the periods of the feedback signal relative to the initial period. Please note that independent claims 1, 23, 27, and 28 already require changing the current frequency divider value and therefore require increasing or decreasing the current

frequency divider value.

Thus, Mar does not disclose or suggest modifying a period of a feedback signal through a plurality of periods from an initial period to a final period, the modify operation utilizing one or more of the plurality of phase outputs, wherein said initial period is different from said final period, as required by independent claims 1, 23, 27, and 28, as amended.

Dependent Claims 2-22, 24-26 and 29-31

Dependent claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mar and claims 2 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mar in view of Mastrocola et al.

Claims 2-22, 24-26, and 29-31 are dependent on claims 1, 23, and 28, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Mar and Mastrocola et al., alone or in combination, because of their dependency from amended independent claims 1, 23, and 28 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim. The Examiner has already indicated that claims 3-5, 8-22, 24-26, and 30-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1-31, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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